

Mar. 15, 44 BC

DURANT

His wife begged Caesar not to go to the Senate. But Decimus Brutus, who was one of his closest friends and was also one of the conspirators - urged him to attend the Senate if only to adjourn it courteously in person. Trebonius, a conspirator who had been a favored general of Caesar, detained Antony from the meeting by conversation. When Caesar entered the theater (Pompey's theater) and took his seat, the "liberators" flung

themselves upon him without delay. Suetonius has written that when Marcus Brutus rushed at him he said, in Greek, Kai su teknon - 'You, too, my child?' When Brutus struck him, says Appian, Caesar ended all resistance, drawing his robe over his face and head, he submitted to the blow and fell at the foot of Pompey's statue.

This assassination was one of the major tragedies of history. This led to 15 more years of chaos and war.

Mar 15, 44 B C

DURANT

Anthony arriving after the assassination saw valor in description and fortified himself in his house.

Emerging, the conspirators found an excited populace in the square; they tried to win over the crowd with catchwords of Liberty and the Republic, but the dazed crowd had no homage for phrases so long used to cover greed. Fleeing for their lives, the assassins took

refuge in the buildings on the Capitol and surrounded themselves there with their personal gladiatorial guards. Toward evening CICEÑO joined them. Antony, approached by their emissaries sent a friendly reply.

Mar. 16, 44 BC

DURANT

A larger crowd gathered in the Forum. The conspirators sent agents to buy its support and organize it into a legal assembly; then they ventured down from the Capitol, and Brutus delivered an oration which he had prepared for the Senate. The speech failed to move its hearers. Cassius tried and was met with cold silence. The Liberators returned to the Capitol, and as the crowd thinned out, they stealthily departed to their

homes. Antony thinking himself Caesar's heir, obtained from the stunned CALPURNIA all the papers and funds that the dictator had left in his palace; at the same time he secretly summoned Caesar's veterans to Rome.

Mar. 17, 44BC

DURANT

On the 17th by his authority as tribune, Antony convened the Senate and astonished all parties by his amiability and calm. He accepted Cicero's proposal for a general amnesty and agreed that Brutus and Cassius should receive provincial governorships (i.e. flight with safety and power), on condition that the Senate should ratify all the decrees, legislation, and appointments by Caesar. Since a majority of the Senate owed office or emoluments to

these acts, it consented, and when it adjourned
Antony was acclaimed as a statesman who had
snatched peace out of the jaws of war. That evening
he entertained Cassius for dinner

44BC

Caesar was awarded tribunician
sacrosanctity.

44Bc

Caesar was appointed Dictator for life

MAR. 19, 44 B C

DURANT

Antony secured Caesar's will from the Vestal Virgins with whom it had been deposited, and read it, first to a small, then to a larger gathering. It bequeathed Caesar's private fortune to three grandnephews and (to the astonishment and anger of Antony) named one of them, CAIUS OCTAVIUS as adoptive son and heir. The dictator had devised his gardens to the people as a public park and had left 300 sesterces to every citizen of Rome.

The news of these benefactions sped through the city; and when on the 20th, Caesar's body came to the Forum.

MAR 20. 44BC

DURANT

On the 20th, Caesar's body, which had been embalmed in his home, was brought into the Forum on the last rites, a great concourse of people, including Caesar's veterans, gathered to do him reverence. Antony seems to have spoken at first with cautious restraint; but as he went on, his pent-up feelings flared into eloquence. When he raised from the ivory bier the torn and bloody robe through which Caesar had

been stabbed, the emotions of the crowd were
stirred beyond control. Amid weird wailing
& frenzied cries men gathered wood anywhere and
built a fire beneath the corpse. Veterans threw
their weapons upon the pyre as an offering,
actors threw their costumes, musicians
their instruments, women their most
precious ornaments. Taking brands from the
fire, some enthusiasts sought to burn down
the houses of the conspirators; but these buildings
were well guarded; and their masters had
fled Rome. Many Jews remained beside the
fire for 3 days. Rats surged through the
cauldron.